THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) National Education Policy lays down that education will be based on a Framework having a common core including *inter alia* protection of environment. In fact, each of the three curricula-released in 1975,1988 and 2000, incoroporated environmental education. Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) introduced a scheme (1988-89)—environmental orientation to school education and has assisted States and NGOs. 48 NGOs, too, have benefited with a total grant of 13.83 crore w.e.f. from 1977-98 to promote environmental education. NCERT has, in June 2004, published syllabus on 'environment education in schools' after having discussions with organisations like Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) and States. The States have been asked to adapt/ adopt the syllabus. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has circulated a 'Syllabus for Environmental Studies' for undergraduate courses for its compulsory implementation in all the Universities/ Colleges of India.

Financial Crisis in Prasar Bharati

*194. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is facing an acute shortage of funds due to decline in its revenue earning;

(b) if so, the details regarding the revenue earned and expenditure incurred by the Prasar Bharati during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enable the Prasar Bharati to overcome the financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, the details of Grants/Loan provided by the Government, revenue generated viz. Internal Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) and expenditure incurred by Prasar Bharati during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Grants/Loan	IEBR	Total	Expenditure
2001-02	1113.81	711.90	1825.71	1629.27
2000-03	1238.39	686.06	1924.45	1766.93
2003-04	1131.19	671.27	1802.46	1663.77
TOTAL	3483.39	2069.23	5552.82	5059.97

(c) Prasar Bharati has been, for the last few years, facing financial burden on account of payment of Service Tax, Income Tax, Sales Tax, Octroi and other taxes. The Government has taken up the matter regarding relaxation from payment of various taxes with appropriate authorities. It is however, mentioned that the Prasar Bharati has recently been registered as a Charitable Institution under Section 12A read with Section 12 AA (1) (b) of Income Tax Act, 1961. With this registration, the income of Prasar Bharati for charitable purpose is exempted according to Section 11 to 13 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Vacant posts of Judges in Patna High Court

f*195. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the vacant posts of judges in the Patna High Court as on the 30th June, 2004;

(b) the details of the steps being taken by Government to fill up the vacancies; and

(c) by when, all the vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Against an approved strength of 43 Judges, 22 Judges were in position in the Patna High Court as on 30.6.2004 leaving 21 vacancies to be filled up.

(b) Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6,1993 read with theirAdvisory Opinion of October 28,1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.